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| CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T | | REPORT |
| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY | | CD NO. |
| INFORMATION FROM | | |
| FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS | | |
| COUNTRY | Hungary | DATE OF INFORMATION |
| SUBJECT | Political - Control of foreign nationals | 1954 |
| HOW PUBLISHED | Daily newspaper | DATE DIST. <i>21</i> Jul 1955 |
| WHERE PUBLISHED | Budapest | NO. OF PAGES 2 |
| DATE PUBLISHED | 10 Mar 1954 | SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. |
| LANGUAGE | Hungarian | |

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SOURCE Magyar Kozlony

TRAVEL AND RESIDENCE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN HUNGARY

[Comment: The following information is taken from Decree No 17/1954 (III. 10) of the Council of Ministers, regulating the travel of foreign nationals to and from Hungary and their stay in the country. The decree affects all persons who can prove foreign citizenship, persons having dual citizenship, persons whose citizenship is questionable, and stateless persons. It does not affect persons enjoying extraterritoriality or special exemption.]

Foreign nationals may enter Hungary only on presenting valid entry or transit permits such as passports, border-area resident's travel permits, etc. They must enter the country at the time and place specified on the permits.

In special cases, the Minister of Interior may allow foreign nationals to enter without permit or at a point other than that specified on the permit.

Permanent residents of areas bordering on Hungary may enter Hungary on a border-area resident's travel permit when such an agreement exists between Hungary and the neighboring country. Such residents, however, must enter at the time and place specified on the permit. The permit is valid only with the approval of the headquarters of the Hungarian border guard.

Transit permits entitle the holder to make an unbroken trip through Hungary or to spend not more than 48 hours in the country.

Foreign nationals must report their arrival to KEOKH [Kulfoldieket Ellenorzo Orszagos Hivatal, National Office for Controlling Foreign Nationals] in Budapest or to the local police elsewhere within 24 hours after entering Hungary.

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Foreign nationals may remain in Hungary only on receiving a permit from KEOKH or the local police. These permits may be requested when the foreign national reports to the aforesaid authorities. The permits are of the three following types: the temporary visitor's permit (ideiglenes tartozkodasi engedely), valid for 14 days; the visitor's permit (tartozkodasi engedely), valid from 14 days to 6 months; and the residence permit (lakhatasi engedely), valid from 6 months to a specified period, or until revoked.

To obtain either of the latter permits, the following documents must be submitted: passport, birth or marriage certificate, and certificate of nationality.

To obtain a temporary visitor's permit, only the passport need be submitted.

The authorities responsible for issuing the permits may extend them, provided application for extension is made within 48 hours, 15 days, or 30 days for the temporary visitor's permit, visitor's permit, and residence permit, respectively.

Foreign nationals must reside in the place specified on the permit and may change residence only with the permission of the authority which issued the permit.

Foreign nationals holding a permit of residence may find employment in Hungary.

The Minister of Interior may revoke a residence permit at any time. In such cases, the foreign national must leave the country within a specified time. The minister may also require a foreign national to report periodically or demand that he leave the country if he cannot prove his citizenship or identity, or if his stay is against the interests of or dangerous to Hungary. If such a person refuses to leave, he may be removed by force.

Foreign nationals leaving the country after a stay of less than 14 days must report their departure 24 hours in advance. This does not apply to holders of transit permits. Persons having spent more than 14 days in Hungary are required to have an exit permit (kiutazasi engedely). They must notify KEOKH or the local police of the date of departure and request an exit permit from them. On being granted an exit permit, they must surrender the visitor's or residence permit.

Foreign nationals who fail to report to the authorities, and all persons who lodge such foreign nationals without reporting them, are subject to a fine of 100 forints.

Foreign nationals staying in Hungary without permit or residing in a place other than specified by the permit are guilty of a felony and subject to 2 years of imprisonment.

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